

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USIAC

FOR IOP/M, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: NATO AND NEUTRON BOMB

REF: WATCH LIST MARCH 27

1. MALMO'S ARBETET, THE MAJOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPER IN SWEDEN, USES GEN. HAIG PRESS CONFERENCE AS PEG FOR CRITICIZING EH WEAPON MARCH 28, BUT WITH AN ANTI-SOVIET TWIST NOT OFTEN SEEN IN SWEDEN:
2. "THE NEUTRON WEAPON IS THE WEAPON INDUSTRY'S LATEST PERVERSION AND NO MILITARY ARGUMENT IN THE WORLD CAN JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE. THERE ARE OVER 10,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE, MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DESOLATE THE CONTINENT FOREVER. WHEN HAIG WISHES TO HAVE MORE, AND FURTHERMORE A NEW REFINED TYPE, HE SHOWS SIMPLY HOW TOTALLY BLIND THE MILITARY STRATEGISTS ARE.
3. "BUT GENERAL HAIG PRESENTED AN ARGUMENT AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH IS WORTH REVIEWING SINCE IT REMINDS US THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE IN NO WAY WITHOUT GUILT EVEN IF THE NEUTRON WEAPON SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE NUCLEAR ARSENALS IN EUROPE...."

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4. "...HE POINTED OUT THAT QUITE TOO LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD THE SOVIETS' NEW MOBILE MISSILE, THE SS-20, WHOSE NUCLEAR WARHEADS ARE 2,000 TIMES MORE DEADLY THAN THE NEUTRON BOMB. THE SOVIETS' AND THE WARSAW PACT'S TANKS IN EUROPE ARE ("ARE" IS ITALICIZED) A WORRYING FACTOR. ACCORDING TO THE RECENTLY RELEASED BRITISH WHITE BOOK ON

DEFENSE THE EAST BLOC HAS 9,500 TANKS READY FOR USE IN WEST EUROPE --THREE TIMES MORE THAN WHAT NATO HAS. WHY THAT IS SO IS A QUESTION OTHERS THAN THE NATO LEADERS HAVE REASON TO BE WORRIED ABOUT. THE SOVIETS' SS-20 IS A COMPLETELY SUPERFLUOUS ADDITION TO THE WORLD'S MOST FRIGHTENING ARSENAL OF REALLY HEAVY DOOMSDAY NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

5. "THE COLD FACTS ARE WHOLLY AND SIMPLY THAT EVEN THE SOVIETS ARE ARMING AND DOING IT MORE EFFICIENTLY AND MORE PURPOSEFULLY THAN PERHAPS AT ANY TIME DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

6. "AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NEUTRON BOMB IS HYPOCRITICAL -- IN SPITE (OF THE FACT) THAT IT IS SO ESSENTIAL THAT EVERYONE OUGHT TO SUPPORT ITS MAIN GOAL SO THAT EUROPE CAN BE SPARED THE NEW WEAPON. THE SOVIETS ARE ARMING AND THE USA ARMS, AND BOTH EXPORT WEAPONS IN INCREASING NUMBERS TO CRISIS CENTERS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THAT IS NOT AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH DISARMAMENT MEASURES OR ACTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN TYPES OF WEAPONS HAVE A LARGE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

7. "IF THE SOVIETS ARE SERIOUS, THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS OUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR WISH TO DISARM IN CCD, MBFR OR SALT. THE SOVIETS TAKE NO RISKS -- THE SOVIET WEAPONS ARE FAR AND AWAY MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DETER ANY AGGRESSOR...."

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8. "TO BE SURE, IT IS THE RUSSIANS' TURN TO DO SOMETHING. WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK OFFICE HE MADE A FAR-REACHING ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE ARMAMENT SPIRAL. BUT SINCE HE OBVIOUSLY WAS SERIOUS ABOUT IT, THE RUSSIANS BECAME SO SHOCKED THAT THEY ABRUPTLY SAID NO. MORE WEAPONS ARE NOT NEEDED IN THE WORLD AND IF ONLY ONE OF THE BIG MILITARILY STRONG NATIONS WOULD DARE DEMONSTRATE THAT, PERHAPS IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING COMMON SENSE WILL GET A CHANCE."  
RICCIO

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## Message Attributes

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